

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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P 211622Z MAR 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8854

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BONN INFO USBERLIN BREMEN DUSSELDORF
HAMBURG STUTTGART MUNICH 131035Z DEC 74 BEING RPTD FOR YOUR
INFO

QUOTE

FRANKFURT 8181

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, GW

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF REVISED FORMAT NIV

REF: STATE 268221

A) NEW VIV FORMAT IS IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS FORMAT. FULL
IMPACT OF QUOTE SIGNATURE AUTOMATION UNQUOTE ON OFFICER WORK-
LOAD WOULD NOT BE EVIDENT UNTIL PEAK SEASON ARRIVES, MARCH
THROUGH JUNE. THIS POST OVER PAST TWO SEASONS AVERAGED CLOSE
TO 5,6000 ISSUANCES PER MONTH, AND HIGH DAILY WORKLOAD RANGED
400-500 ISSUANCES. ASSUMING FIVE SEVONDS PER SIGNATURE,
TIME SAVINGS WOULD APPROXIMATE EIGHT HOURS IN TYPICAL PEAK
SEASON MONTH, OR 40 MINUTES ON HIGH VOLUME DAY. THIS BENEFIT
ALONE IS NOT OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE.

B) QUOTE SIGNATURE AUTOMATION UNQUOTE RELIEVES VISA OFFICER
OF ONE STEP IN HIS ROUTINE. THIS FACTOR IS FELT PARTICULARLY
WHEN HANDLING ROUT AND OTHER LARGE GROUPS OF APPLICATIONS.
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THUS, OFFICER CAN BETTER CONCENTRATE ON SCRUTINY OF VISA

APPLICATIONS. OFFICERS ALSO NOW GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO OVERALL NIV MANAGEMENT AND PROCESSING. THIS POST HAS NOT IN PAS DRAFTED OFFICERS FROM OTHER SECTIONS TO SIGN VISAS EXCEPT WHEN THEY ARE DUTY OFFICER; THERE IS NO CHANGE IN MORALE IN THIS SENSE RESULTING FROM INTRODUCTION OF NEW PLATE.

C) THIS POST HAS HAD IN EFFECT QUOTE STRAIGHT LINE PROCESSING UNQUOTE AS DESCRIBED IN DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL, EXCEPT THAT: (1) STEP 2 IS COMPUTER CHECK; AND (2) BETWEEN STEPS 4 AND 5 COMES REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS WITH VISAS ALREADY STAMPED IN PASSPORTS. THESE CONSTITUTE 90 PERCENT OF APPLICATIONS. EFFICIENT LOCAL STAFF ACCEPT VISA APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN PERSON OR BY MAIL; STAMP VISAS IN BONA VIDE CASES FOR REVIEW BY OFFICERS; AND REFER PROBLEM AND DIFFICULT CASES TO OFFICERS FOR INTERVIEW OR APPROVAL IN ADVANCE. ACCURACY OF FSL JUDGMENT IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. THIS GENERAL PROCESS CONTINUES SINCE INTRODUCTION OF NEW NIV PLATES.

D) FSL STAFF AT THIS POST ARE HIGHLY TRUSTWORTHY AND OFFICER CONTROL OVER INTERNAL NIV PROCESSING IN SENSE OF MALFEASANCE PREVENTION HAS NOT BEEN A FACTOR OF CONCERN IN VISA OPERATIONS. VISA FRAUD AND REFUSAL RATE ARE LOW.

E) VISA CLERKS AT THIS POST, AS PER EXISTING DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS, NOW WRITE IN PASSPORT NAME OF APPLICANT WHO IS NOT NATIONAL OF GERMANY, IMMEDIATELY AFTER STAMPING VISA. THIS PRACTICE, IF INSTITUTED AT OTHER POSTS, SHOULD CREATE NO PROBLEM.

F) THIS POST, WITH THREE VISA MACHINES HAS EXPERIENCED MORE DIFFICULTIES WITH NUMBERING UNITS WHEN USED WITH NEW PLATES. ONE MACHINE IN PARTICULAR HASS BEEN MALFUNCTIONING FREQUENTLY DESPITE REPEATED CHECKS. IF THIS PROBLEM IS UNIVERSAL AND INHERENT IN NEW PLATE, REMEDIAL STEP SHOULD BE TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT, TO PROVIDE PLATES WITH QUOTE MECHANICALLY COMPATIBLE UNQUOTE NUMBERING UNITS.

HARLAN
UNQUOTE
HILLENBRAND

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